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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

- Claim 1. (currently amended): A method of bending a thin-walled, stainless steel tube having polygonal cross-section through a desired curvature along its longitudinal axis, the method comprising:
- (a) reinforcing a portion of the tube with a core that allows the portion to bend but that resists buckling of the tube walls, the core comprising at least one of:
 - (i) granules;
 - (ii) liquid; and
 - (iii) a sprung mechanism that inscribes the portion; and
 - (b) bending the reinforced portion of the tube.
- Claim 2. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein reinforcing a portion of the tube with a core includes inserting into the tube a longitudinally bendable core that resists transverse compression, whereby the core redistributes transverse forces applied to the portion.

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- Claim 3. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising removing the core after bending the reinforced portion of the tube.
- Claim 4. (cancelled)
- Claim 5. (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim [4]1, wherein ~~filling the portion with granules includes packing the portion with~~ packed sand.
- Claim 6. (cancelled)
- Claim 7. (cancelled)
- Claim 8. (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim [7]1, wherein ~~reinforcing the portion of the tube with a core includes inserting into the portion a~~ the sprung mechanism includes a coil spring that has an outside perimeter substantially congruent with the inside perimeter of the portion.
- Claim 9. (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim [2]1, wherein reinforcing a portion of the tube with a core includes sealing at least one end of the portion to discourage the core from coming out of the portion.
- Claim 10. (cancelled)
- Claim 11. (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim 101, wherein the cross-section of the tube forms a quadrilateral.
- Claim 12. (cancelled)

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Claim 13. (cancelled)

Claim 14. (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim 1[3], wherein the thickness of the tube sidewall is in a range between one tenth of one millimeter and one millimeter.

Claim 15. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the thickness of the tube sidewall is in a range between one tenth of one millimeter and five tenths of one millimeter.

Claim 16. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the thickness of the tube sidewall is one tenth of one millimeter.

Claim 17. (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim [2]1, wherein bending the reinforced portion of the tube includes rolling the portion between rollers that define between them:

- (a) a path having the desired curvature; and
- (b) a channel that is substantially congruent with the outside perimeter of the portion.

Claim 18. (cancelled)

Claim 19. (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim 1[8]Z, further comprising squaring the tube, wherein squaring includes at least one of:

- (a) squaring the cross-section of the portion; and

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(b) longitudinally untwisting the portion.

Claim 20. (original): A method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein squaring the tube includes rolling the tube between rollers that define between them a substantially straight path.

Claim 21. (cancelled)

Claim 22. (currently amended): A thin-walled, stainless steel tube having polygonal cross-section and a desired curvature along its longitudinal axis, made in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

Claim 23. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 22, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 2~~ wherein reinforcing a portion of the tube with a core includes inserting into the tube a longitudinally bendable core that resists transverse compression, whereby the core redistributes transverse forces applied to the portion.

Claim 24. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 23, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 3~~ wherein the method further comprises removing the core after bending the reinforced portion of the tube.

Claim 25. (cancelled)

Claim 26. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 2[8]3, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 5~~ wherein granules includes packed sand.

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Claim 27. (cancelled)

Claim 28. (cancelled)

Claim 29. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 2[8]3, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 8~~wherein reinforcing the portion of the tube with a core includes inserting into the portion a coil spring that has an outside perimeter substantially congruent with the inside perimeter of the portion.

Claim 30. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 23, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 9~~wherein reinforcing a portion of the tube with a core includes sealing at least one end of the portion to discourage the core from coming out of the portion.

Claim 31. (cancelled)

Claim 32. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 234, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 11~~wherein the cross-section of the tube forms a quadrilateral.

Claim 33. (cancelled)

Claim 34. (cancelled)

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- Claim 35. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 3[4]2, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 14~~wherein the thickness of the tube sidewall is in a range between one tenth of one millimeter and one millimeter.
- Claim 36. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 35, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 15~~wherein the thickness of the tube sidewall is in a range between one tenth of one millimeter and five tenths of one millimeter.
- Claim 37. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 36, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 16~~wherein the thickness of the tube sidewall is one tenth of one millimeter.
- Claim 38. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 23, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 17~~wherein bending the reinforced portion of the tube includes rolling the portion between rollers that define between them:
- (a) a path having the desired curvature; and
 - (b) a channel that is substantially congruent with the outside perimeter of the portion.
- Claim 39. (cancelled)
- Claim 40. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 3[9]8, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 19~~wherein the method further comprises squaring the tube, wherein squaring includes at least one of:
- (a) squaring the cross-section of the portion; and

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(b) longitudinally untwisting the portion.

Claim 41. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 40, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 20~~ wherein squaring the tube includes rolling the tube between rollers that define between them a substantially straight path.

Claim 42. (currently amended): A tube as claimed in Claim 41, ~~further made in accordance with the method of Claim 21~~ wherein rolling the tube between rollers that define between them a substantially straight path includes feeding the portion through a channel defined between the rollers that is substantially congruent with the outside perimeter of the tube.

Claim 43. (withdrawn): An apparatus for bending an elongated body having a predetermined cross-section through a desired curvature along its longitudinal axis, comprising:

- (a) a housing;
- (b) first, second, and third rollers, each roller respectively having an axis of rotation and a rolling surface, the rollers being rotatably mounted on the housing such that:
 - (iv) their respective axes of rotation are substantially parallel; and
 - (v) their respective rolling surfaces define between them a channel having the desired curvature and a cross-section substantially congruent with the cross-section of the body.

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- Claim 44. (withdrawn): An apparatus for squaring an elongated body having a predetermined cross-section, comprising:
- (a) a housing;
 - (b) first and second rollers, each roller respectively having an axis of rotation and a rolling surface, the rollers being rotatably mounted on the housing such that:
 - (i) their respective axes of rotation are substantially parallel; and
 - (ii) their respective rolling surfaces define between them a channel having a cross-section substantially congruent with the cross-section of the body.
- Claim 45. (withdrawn): An apparatus for reinforcing a portion of a tube during manufacturing, comprising a core having an outer diameter substantially equal to the inner diameter of the tube that allows the portion to bend along its longitudinal axis but that resists buckling of the sidewalls of the portion.
- Claim 46. (withdrawn): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 45, wherein the core is longitudinally bendable and resists transverse compression, whereby it is operable to redistribute transverse forces applied to the portion.
- Claim 47. (withdrawn): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the core includes a plurality of granules.

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- Claim 48. (withdrawn): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 47, wherein the granules include sand.
- Claim 49. (withdrawn): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the core includes liquid.
- Claim 50. (withdrawn): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the core includes spring mechanism that inscribes the portion.
- Claim 51. (withdrawn): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 50, wherein the spring mechanism is a coil spring having an outside perimeter substantially congruent with the inside perimeter of the portion.
- Claim 52. (withdrawn): A stainless steel tube having a desired curvature along its longitudinal axis, a substantially polygonal cross-section and a sidewall thickness in a range between one tenth of one millimeter and one millimeter.
- Claim 53. (withdrawn): A tube as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the sidewall thickness is in a range between one tenth of one millimeter and five tenths of one millimeter.
- Claim 54. (withdrawn): A tube as claimed in Claim 53, wherein the sidewall thickness is one tenth of one millimeter.
- Claim 55. (withdrawn): A tube as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the stainless steel alloy is iron-chromium-nickel alloy 304.

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Claim 56. (withdrawn): A grille, comprising:

- (a) a plurality of stainless steel tubes as claimed in Claim 52, in spaced-apart disposition; and
- (b) means for connecting adjacent tubes.